

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 MCT-01 OPR-02 /098 W

-----162023Z 067489 /40

R 161550Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9366

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABERONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

UNCLAS LAGOS 1871

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PDEV, PFOR, RH, NI

SUBJ: MUGABE VISITS NIGERIA

### 1. ROBERT MUGABE OF THE ZIMBABWE PATRIOTIC FRONT (PF), ARRIVED IN LAGOS

FEBRUARY 15 TO SEEK, IN HIS WORDS, FMG ASSISTANCE INCLUDING MILITARY AID. IN WELL REPORTED PRESS CONFERENCE MUGABE DECLARED NIGERIA A POWER IN AFRICAN IN FOREFRONT OF COUNTRIES WHICH AID THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, THE PF LEADER WHO IS HEADING A SEVEN MAN DELEGATION WHICH INCLUDES ZAPU SECRETARY GENERAL JOSEPH MUSIKA DESCRIBED AS JOSHUA NKOMO'S REPRESENTATIVE) SAID NIGERIA HAD THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CAPACITY AND RESOURCES TO ASSIST THE NATIONALISTS IN FREEING THEM SELVES.

2. CLAIMING PF IS "...TRYING TO STAGE A NEW COMBAT (SIC) ON THE RACISTS," MUGABE SAID A RENEWED GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD SERVE NO PURPOSE. HE ASSERTED THAT A RESUMPTION OF THE CONFERENCE WOULD MEAN DISCUSSION ABOUT SHARING POWER WITH IAN SMITH. "THERE SHOULD BE NO

QUESTION OF SHARING POWERS IN ZIMBABWE. POWER MUST BE HANDED OVER TO THE PEOPLE."

3. HE TOLD THE NEWSMEN THAT BISHOP MUZOREWA HAD BEEN INVITED TO JOIN THE PF BUT HAD ADAMANTLY DECLINED THE INVITATION. MUGABE, ALLEGING SMITH IS PLANNING TO HAND OVER POWER TO MUZOREWA, SAID SUCH A GOVERNMENT WOULD BE A PUPPET IMPOSED AGAINST THE WISHES OF ZIMBABWEAN PEOPLE AND THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE CRUSHED.

4. DISCUSSING THE U.S. ROLE, MUGABE SAID ZIMBABWEANS REMAIN SKEPTICAL. "AMERICA IS STILL TRADING WITH THE ILLEGAL REGIME. MERCENARIES ARE STILL BEING RECRUITED BY THE REBELS FROM AMERICA. WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE PLANS OF THE UNITED STATES. UNTIL WE SEE IT (SIC), WE WILL NOT KNOW WHAT THEY HAVE IN STORE." ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, MUGABE SAID THAT IF THE U.S. HAD ANY PROPOSAL TO MAKE IT WOULD NOT BE ONE WHICH HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH SUPPORT FOR ESCALATION OF THE MILITARY STRUGGLE.

5. MUGABE ALSO DENIED RECENT CHARGES THAT NATIONALISTS HAD KILLED SEVEN MISSIONARIES IN ZIMBABWE. HE CLAIMED THE MISSIONARIES HAD BEEN TREATING WOUNDED NATIONALISTS AND THEREFORE THERE WAS NO REASON FOR NATIONALISTS TO HARM THEM. RATHER THE MURDERS SHOULD BE LOOKED ON AS "MACHINATIONS OF THE REBEL CLIQUE."

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## Message Attributes

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